

Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge

August 2 – 8, 2015 [Issue 12]

Photo Credit: USFWS/Matt Hillman

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Photo of the Week



Photo Credit: USFWS/Claire Revekant

A Message from Monomoy

As shorebirds continue to be resighted on the Refuge, staff is in the midst of attending meetings to discuss their findings with other seabird/shorebird nesting sites from around the area, the first of which was the Coastal Waterbird Cooperator's meeting held on 8/4. At this meeting, preliminary productivity estimates were shared between sites ranging along the coast of Massachusetts and including Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard. Other states, including ME, CT, NH, and RI were also in attendance. Next up, staff will be travelling to ME for the Gulf of Maine Seabird Working Group and AMOY Working Group meeting on 8/10 & 8/11, respectively.

Although this is a great time of year to see staging birds, please be mindful and respectful of posted areas. Staging is an important behavior for the survival and longevity of migrating birds, so please do not disturb them!

2015 Field Season Update

This is a weekly synopsis of biological activities on South Monomoy, North Monomoy, and Minimoy Islands. Information within this report is subject to change. For up to date information, please contact Refuge Staff.

Bird Sightings

Ring-billed gull
Iceland gull
Bonaparte's gull
Greater yellowlegs
Whimbrel
Long-billed curlew
Barn swallow
Tree swallow
Ruddy turnstone
Killdeer
Black-bellied plover
Semipalmated plover
Semipalmated sandpiper
Spotted sandpiper
Solitary sandpiper
Least sandpiper
Semipalmated sandpiper
Long-billed dowitcher
Short-billed dowitcher
Red Knot
Sanderling
Dunlin
Hudsonian Godwit
Marbled Godwit
Black tern
White-winged scoter

Black scoter
Common eider
Red-breasted merganser
Blue-winged teal
Green-winged teal
Gadwall
American black duck
Mallard
Northern Gannet
Horned lark
Saltmarsh sparrow
Magnolia warbler
Common yellowthroat
Yellow Warbler
American goldfinch
Gray catbird
Song Sparrow
Savannah sparrow
Eastern towhee
Eastern kingbird
Turkey vulture
Peregrine falcon
Bald eagle
Red-winged blackbird
American bittern
Virginia Rail

Bird Activity

Piping Plovers (PIPL)

Two chicks between two broods fledged this week on 8/3 and 8/5, and with a missing brood with one chick found fledged on 7/27, the total number now stands at 63 fledged between 31 broods on South Monomoy Island. One chick has yet to fledge by the Connection and has not been observed since 7/28. Staff will continue to check the area for signs of the pair/chick. The chick is expected to fledge on 8/11.

43 PIPL pairs nested on SMNY, one pair nested on Minimoy, and one pair nested on NMNY this season. Of these pairs, nine failed to hatch chicks and five failed to fledge chicks, so far. Staff will continue to monitor the remaining brood until the chick has fledged or determined as failed.

American Oystercatchers (AMOY)

Minimoy was checked once this week on 8/5. After weeks of unsuccessful brood checks, staff finally found one chick hiding in the marsh edge. This chick is expected to fledge on 8/14. The second pair suspected of having chicks were not seen during this visit and are now suspected to have lost the nest/brood. Staff will continue to monitor Minimoy's only chick until fledged and check for signs of activity from the second pair. See "Photo of the Week" for a look at this chick at 26 days old.

Staff diligently checked the surprise brood at Powder Hole with two chicks on 8/6 for signs of fledging. No flying yet, but staff expects these chicks, along with the three chicks at Hospital Pond, to fledge in the coming weeks. The brood at Hospital Pond is expected to fledge on 8/19 and were last observed on 8/5.

Staff is anticipating the arrival of staging AMOYs in the coming weeks, but notes no new individuals so far.

If you see a banded AMOY, please report their band to the American Oystercatcher Working Group website at <http://amoywg.org/banding-re-sighting/>.

Common Terns (COTE) & Roseate Terns (ROST)

Productivity is characterized by few nests and small chicks, leading staff to close five more plots this week for a total of 17 plots closed so far. Plots will be monitored until the last remaining nests have hatched and B-census chicks have fledged/reached 23

days. Additionally, the last kleptoparasitism stint of the season was performed on 7/31.

Staff has been busy attending the Coastal Waterbird Cooperator's meeting on 8/4 and putting productivity numbers together to present at the Gulf of Maine Seabird Working Group (GOMSWG) meeting in Maine at Hog island on 8/10. Therefore, productivity was conducted twice this week on 8/3 and 8/5.

Staging counts were not conducted this week, but staff hopes to continue these surveys upon their return from GOMSWG next week. If you see a banded tern, please report their code/number to Kate Iaquinto at Kate_Iaquinto@fws.gov. Reporting bands is extremely important to researchers tracking the movements of these birds.

Black Skimmers (BSK)

BSK were not seen on the Refuge or South Beach this week.

Least Terns (LETE)

No new information to report.

Laughing Gulls (LAGU)

No new information to report.

Roseate habitat restoration Project

No new information to report.

Nanotag Project

No new information to report. Staff and researchers continue to note birds leaving the area/Refuge.

Salt Marsh Integrity

Staff is still awaiting the arrival of necessary parts to install the last water levellogger. Upon arrival, staff plans to immediately install the water levellogger on Minimoy Island, tide permitting, and lay down the feldspar plots for the SETs at the remaining two study areas on the Refuge; North Monomoy Island and Hospital Pond/Minimoy Island.

"The Fury of the Tempest"

Please join Refuge Interpretive Specialist Carson Fehner on a journey through over 300 years of human activity on the Monomoy Islands! Carson will be giving a talk on *The Fury of the Tempest: Navigating the History of the Monomoy Islands* on **12 August at 7PM at the Eldredge Public Library in Chatham.**

Beach Clean-Up

Clean-up! Clean-up! Everybody do your share! After staff became disheartened by the marine debris seen scattered throughout the Refuge all season, a beach clean-up day was scheduled and took place on 8/6. Multiple garbage bags of plastic, old buoys, fishing gear, and (the most abundant) balloons were collected from Powder Hole to "the fridge" ~1 mile north of Lighthouse Boat Landing. Monomoy's SCA/Americorps interns are planning to use this garbage to create art for outreach purposes. Staff was excited to partake in this activity, as marine debris is known to injure, entangle, and/or kill wildlife, including the species we work with here at Monomoy. So please be responsible for your trash! More information on this will follow as necessary. See banner photo on page 1 for a look at our trash collection and the staff that helped pick it up!



Photo Credit: USFWS/Kaiti Titherington



Photo Credit: USFWS/Rob Finer

Current & Upcoming Events

MA Coastal Waterbird Meeting	August 4
Beach Clean-Up	August 6
GOMSWG	August 10
AMOY Working Group Meeting	August 11
"The Fury of the Tempest" Talk	August 12

2015 JULY						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	